

A NEW FORM OF TRILLIUM MIYABEANUM (LILIACEAE) FROM HOKKAIDO

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Trillium miyabeanum var. miyabeanum Tatewaki f. albiflorum Soukup, f. nov., a f. miyabeano petalis albidis differt.

HOLOTYPE: JAPAN: Hokkaido: Ishikari, about 10 km east of Lake Shikotsu in seasonally wet, rich woods in company with typical forms of both Trillium miyabeanum v. miyabeanum and v. atropurpureocarpum in addition to the parent species, T. apetalon and T. tschonoskii, May 1980, Samejima and Samejima (CINC!).

This new form with whitish flowers was found by J and K. Samejima and the author during his field studies in Japan in 1978. No collections were made at that time but in 1980 the Samejimas collected one flowering stem. The location is in an extensive tract of level, mostly deciduous woodland which remains quite wet in the springtime and which contains a rich herbaceous flora. One clump of approximately three plants growing proximately and having about ten flowering stems was found. Known only from the type collection.

Trillium miyabeanum is a tetraploid hybrid of the two tetraploid species, T. apetalon and T. tschonoskii and occurs in two varieties (Samejima & Samejima, 1962), one having a greenish ovary and the other a purple one. The common varieties of T. apetalon (loc. cit.) all have small, deep maroon-purple sepals and no petals. Hybridization with the smallish-flowered, cream-colored T. tschonoskii leads to rather small-flowered plants usually having bright rosy-purple petals. While a complete absence of petals in these hybrids is rare, the presence of three fully formed, perfect petals is almost as rare. Usually the plants carry a combination of partial (deformed) and perfect petals, occasionally even having one or two petals missing. The new white-flowered form is no exception to this generality and no flowers with three complete petals were found.

The origin of this white-flowered form is a matter of speculation. It is difficult to imagine that it could arise directly from an apparently dominant, purple-flowered T. apetalon variety. Trillium apetalon v. atropurpureocarpum f. album is a rare form of the species having yellowish-green sepals which occurs in the Ishikari Depression. It is possible that the new white form is a hybrid of this greenish-flowered (albino?) T. apetalon and T. tschonoskii.

Samejima, J. & K. Samejima 1962. Studies on the Eastern Asiatic Trillium (Liliaceae). Acta Horti Gothob. 25: 157-257.